

## Re: Another Tale of Woe

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**From:** Harold Stevens (*wookie\_at\_deuce.localdomain*)

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In <9ol8q1-jq.ln1@don.localnet>, Bill Marcum:

[Snip...]

> *The hard drive may well have been the reason for your problems in  
> installing Linux.*

...or running Linux consistently as I found with a data drive (not the Linux system installation drive) on a Dell Optiplex GXa.

Long story short: Linux would install, boot, and run well on it, until I did overnight gzipped tar backups on the data drive. The system would completely hardlock freeze everytime about 5 or 10 minutes into the backup. Poweroff to restart was the only recourse once the system locked.

Since tar/gzip is so CPU intensive, I first looked at that aspect, but there wasn't any indication there was anything wrong there or anywhere else, until the backups started. Ran literally weeks without backups, but then that kind of defeats the whole purpose of a more reliable miniserver system. :)

One day I flat gave up, and decided to change to a workstation configuration (with much smaller savesets which I could easily backup over a network). The data drive would be reformatted, using bad blocks and destructive write test option

```
mke2fs -c -c /dev/hdb1
```

then removed for use elsewhere.

After reformatting, I remounted this data drive to make sure it was OK, then got distracted and forgot about the thing. This pause in the action extended into an overnight backup cronjob session as usual; it worked flawlessly.

It continued to work flawlessly for months, and is still doing so. :)

I don't know why IDE controller/drive hardware would hardlock like this, but that's apparently exactly what was happening. Go figure. :)

comp.os.linux.misc: Re: Another Tale of Woe

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Regards, Weird (Harold Stevens) \* IMPORTANT EMAIL INFO FOLLOWS \*  
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